

Application No. 09/414,483  
Amendment dated November 5, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of August 16, 2004

#### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner's indication that claims 29-34, 36-39 and 41 are allowable is noted with appreciation.

Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 451,596 to Longenecker.

By the present amendment, claim 24 has been amended, new claims 45 and 46, which depend from claim 24, have been added and an additional sentence of description has been added to page 5.

The Examiner is courteously requested, for the following reasons, to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 24.

The Longenecker reference issued as long ago as 1891, i.e. over one hundred years ago, and is therefore an antique reference.

Referring to the embodiment of the present invention shown in Figures 1 and 1A, it can be seen that the ends of the rails 14 abut the corner connector 20. This ensures the transference of compressive axial loads centrally, by parallel-to-grain stress, i.e. the optimum mode of wood loading, when the building structure is subjected to seismic loads.

In other words, when the present building structure is subjected to seismic loads, the corner connector, which absorbs most of the loads, avoid the transmission of loads from the (vertical) studs to the (horizontal) plates perpendicular to the grain of the plates. This is because the ends of the studs abut the corner connector, and not the plates. This is important in repetitive loadings in which, if the ends of the studs abutted the plates, the result would be that the stud ends would cause a softening or indentation of the plates, which would result in consequently greater wall deformation and decreased wall structural capacity.

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In this connection, it is particularly pointed out that amended claim 24 specifically recites the vertical and horizontal lengths of lumber as "having ends in abutment with said intermediate section of said corner connector".

No such arrangement is disclosed or in any way suggested by the Longenecker reference, which on the contrary teaches away from this novel and advantageous corner connector arrangement by abutting the ends of parts A and C against the side of part B.

Clearly, with this prior sash structure, loads transmitted from points A and C to B will act perpendicular to the grain of part B, which is just what the present invention avoids.

Since the Longenecker reference is not concerned with building structures, but only with sashes, which are used in building structures but do not form parts of the building structures and are not required to resist seismic loading, this lack of relevance is not surprising.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the recitation on claim 24 of:-

"said vertical and horizontal lengths of lumber having ends in abutment with said intermediate section of said corner connector"

clearly and patentably distinguishes over the disclosure of the Longenecker reference.

Claims 25 and 26, to which the Examiner referred, were previously cancelled but are replaced by new claims 45 and 46, which recite additional advantageous features of the invention.

This opportunity has been taken to amend page 5, line 6 by the addition of the following sentence:-

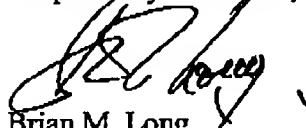
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"As can be seen from Figures 1 and 1A, the underside of the box-shaped section 30 of the corner connector 20 is flush with the undersides of the rails 14 and the opposite sides of the box-shaped section 30 are flush with the vertical sides of the side members 16".

These features of the corner connector are clearly apparent from Figures 1 and 1A, so no new subject matter has been added by this disclosure amendment.

It is accordingly believed that the application is now in order for allowance, and early action to that end is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,

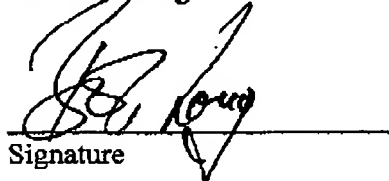
  
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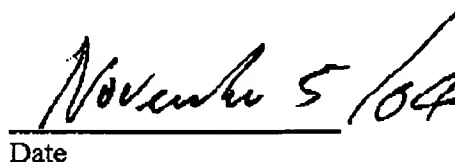
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